

Serial No. 10/062,588 filed July 5, 2001  
Response of November 5, 2009  
to Office Action of August 10, 2009

### **Remarks**

Receipt is acknowledged of the Office Action of August 10, 2009. It is believed that no extensions of the time provided for response are needed; however, should any extensions be necessary, they are respectfully requested. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to debit any and all amounts due from Deposit Account No. 50-3355, and it is requested that any overpayments in this application be credited thereto.

In addition, please note that Applicant hereby claims small entity status.

### **Allowable Subject Matter**

In the Office Action, claims 17, 18 and 30 were held allowable. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 16 to include the limitations of claim 17 therein. The claim has also been amended to recite that the slit intersects both the edge and the opening. In addition, the clause “said fastener comprises a slit” has been removed, as it is duplicative of the clause in claim 16 reciting “said ring comprising an opening and a slit”.

Likewise, Applicant has amended claim 25 to include the limitations of claim 30 therein (with the same amendment regarding the slit, and the same duplicative recital of the ring comprising a slit having been removed).

In addition, new claim 33 has been added, which presents the same limitations as claim 25, except that in place of a “towel-related product” the claim recites a towel.

Additional dependent claims to claims 16, 25, and 33 have been added as well.

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Amendments to Address §112 Rejections

In the Office Action, claims 19, 31, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph for failing to provide antecedent basis for several limitations. In response, claim 19 and 32 were amended to change “fastener” to “ring” such that antecedent basis is now present. In addition, the amendment to claim 25 now provides antecedent basis for the limitation “said edge” in claim 31.

In view of the above, it is believed that all of the claims are allowable.

As a precaution, in the event that this response is not deemed sufficient for allowance, Applicant requests that the present submission be treated as a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 in view of the fact that the Office Action of August 10<sup>th</sup> was made final. Continued examination is believed to be available since the Office Action of August 10<sup>th</sup> was made final, and the present request for continued examination and submission (including amendments to the claims and remarks in support of patentability), is being filed prior to abandonment of the application. The Commissioner is hereby to debit the fees due for any RCE, if needed, from counsel’s deposit account.

Accordingly, favorable action on the application is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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